

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2480

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, JA, CH

SUBJECT: JAPAN-CHINA TRADE

REF: TOKYO A-363

1. JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATION (JETRO) HAS PUBLISHED PRODUCT ANALYSIS OF JAPAN-CHINA TRADE DURING FIRST HALF 1975 REPORTED REFAIR. MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. AT 34.8 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, MACHINERY REPLACED IRON AND STEEL AS LEADING EXPORT ITEM AS DELIVERY BEGAN ON LARGE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT CONTRACTS SIGNED IN 1973-74, ESPECIALLY ROLLED STEEL PLANTS. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL TOTALLED \$282 MILLION (DOWN 12.5 PERCENT) AND CONSTITUTED 24 PERCENT OF TOTAL. (IRON AND STEEL CONTRACTS FOR THE LAST HALF OF 1975 ARE STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION BUT YEARLY TOTALS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR'S). EXPORTS OF CHEMICAL
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FERTILIZERS DROPPED IN QUANTITY (NO FIGURES AVAILABLE),

BUT ROSE 132.2 PERCENT TO MAINTAIN THIRD PLACE IN TOTAL EXPORTS (17.6 PERCENT). EXPORTS OF FARM AND MINING MACHINERY THAT HAD REGISTERED DRAMATIC GAINS LAST YEAR, FELL OFF SLIGHTLY AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT WAS VIRTUALLY FLAT.

3. OIL IMPORTS ROSE 155.2 PERCENT TO \$235 MILLION (3.4 MILLION KILOLITERS), BY FAR THE LEADING IMPORT ITEM (42.3 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS). ALTHOUGH TOTAL IMPORTS ROSE 8.2 PERCENT BY VALUE, EXCLUDING OIL, IMPORTS DROPPED 13.5 PERCENT BY VALUE, EXCLUDING OIL, IMPORTS DROPPED 13.5 PERCENT IN VALUE. IN PARTICULAR TEXTILES, GARMENTS, SILK THREAD AND RAW SILK DECLINED.

4. JETRO ALSO NOTED SEVERAL OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN SINO-JAPANESE TRADE: A) LARGE JAPANESE TRADING FIRMS HAVE BEGUN TRIANGULAR TRADE AMONG JAPAN, CHINA AND THIRD COUNTRIES; B) TRADE FORMALLY CONDUCTED BY SMALL DUMMY TRADE COMPANIES HAS NOW VIRTUALLY ALL PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE LARGE PARENT COMPANIES; C) JAPANESE TRADERS TAKE THE DECISION TO HOLD A SERIES OF "MINI-FAIRS" FEATURING SPECIAL PRODUCTS IN TIENTSIN AND ELSEWHERE AS A SIGN OF PEKING'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN PROMOTING TRADE. MARKET CONDITIONS IN JAPAN DO NOT, HOWEVER, AUGUR AN EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN THE BILATERAL TRADE IMBALANCE. HODGSON

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